

CLAIMS

- 1 An illumination device comprising:
 - a body member;
 - one or more sources of light aligned on a longitudinal axis of, and lying within, the body member;
 - one or more transparent regions of the body member through which light from the or each source passes when the source or sources are energised; and
 - optical particles such as balls or chips of glass lying in the body member and extending between the or each source and that side of the or each transparent region which is directed towards the inside of the body member.
- 2 An illumination device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the sources of light are a plurality of light emitting solid state devices and the optical particles are glass balls.
- 3 An illumination device as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the body member is a tube of glass forming the sole transparent region of the body member.
- 4 An illumination device as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the optical particles are of uniform size and shape.
- 5 An illumination device as claimed in Claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein the optical particles vary in size over a spectrum of sizes.
- 6 An illumination device as claimed in Claim 5 wherein the optical particles are of similar shape.

- 7 An illumination device as claimed in any preceding claim wherein there are a plurality of sources of light and at least one of the sources differs in output colour from at least one other of the sources.
- 8 An illumination device as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the interior of the body member not occupied by the sources or the optical particles is filled with a gas or vapour, which latter term includes air, maintained at a controlled pressure relative to ambient atmospheric pressure.
- 9 An illumination device as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the body member is a sealed enclosure with conductors for electricity powering the or each light source passing through a wall of the enclosure by way of a gas tight seal.
- 10 An illumination device as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.